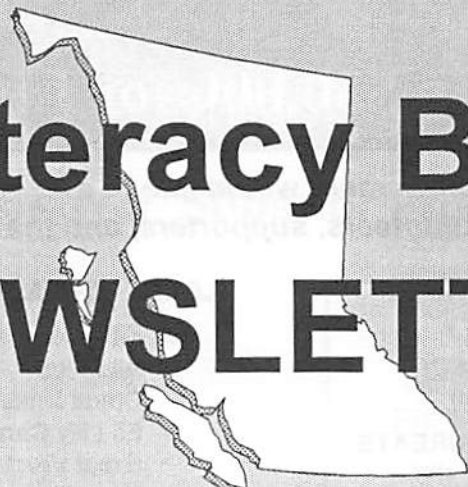




Literacy B.C. NEWSLETTER

August 1996

Volume 2, Number 2

Take 5 and READ on September 8

On September 8 at 12 noon "stop what you're doing - pick up a book, community newspaper, anything - and READ."

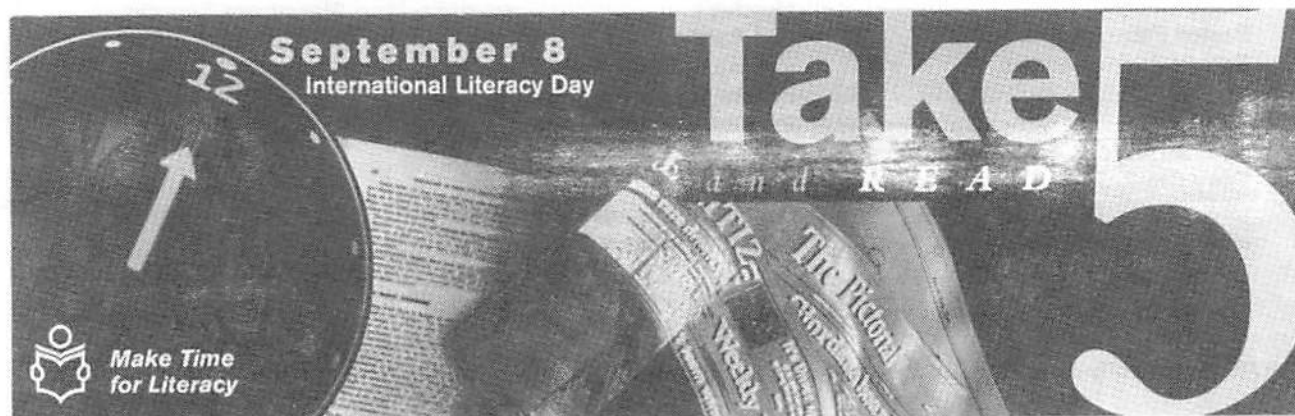
That's the message of the Take 5 and READ campaign, a special promotion for September 8, International Literacy Day. The campaign is designed to draw attention to the importance of literacy in our everyday lives.

Literacy B.C. will provide International Literacy Day kits to help you promote literacy and the Take 5 and READ event

in your community. The kits will be mailed mid-August to public libraries and the literacy field in B.C.

The campaign is sponsored by the B.C. Library Association; the B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers Association; Canada Post Corporation; Fletcher Challenge Canada Ltd.; Library Services Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Literacy B.C.; Public Library InterLINK; and Vancouver Public Library.

For more information, call Literacy B.C. at 1-800-663-1293. ☐





Vancouver's sixth annual PGI raises more than \$30,000 for Literacy B.C.

Literacy B.C. and the PGI Tournament would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all participants, volunteers, supporters, and the following sponsors:

NATIONAL TRAVEL SPONSOR
Air Canada

LITERACY QUIZ SPONSOR
Canada Post Corporation

PETRO-CANADA POET LAUREATE
John Gray

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL CHALLENGE GRANT
For every \$10.00 this PGI realizes for literacy,
Royal Bank will contribute another \$1.00.

SUPERIOR PROPANE LEARNER AWARD
Dwayne Schmidt

NATIONAL CORPORATE SPONSORS
Famous Players Inc. Tiger Brand Knitting Company
McClelland & Stewart Inc. The Ottawa Citizen
NWT Air

BREAKFAST SPONSOR
James Hoggan + Associates

GOLF DAY LUNCH SPONSOR
Overwaitea/Save-On-Food Group

LOCAL TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

7-Eleven Canada
Altamira
Credit Union Central of B.C.
Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
Great West Life
Manulife Financial
MCL Motor Cars (1992) Inc.
MSA/BC LIFE
Primus Capital Advisors
Ted Nitta & Associates
Westminster Savings Credit Union
Overwaitea/Save-On-Food Group
The Vancouver Sun
The Province
William M. Mercer
WHERE Vancouver/Quebecor Printing

A warm and special thank you to our hosts, "Double Exposure," Linda Cullen and Bob Robertson, and to all our celebrity golfers.

PRIZE CONTRIBUTORS

7-Eleven Canada
97•KISS•FM
Air Canada
Atlas Wine Merchants
B.C. Hot House
B.C. Lions
B.C. Sports Hall of Fame
Black Knight
Boston Pizza International
Cathay Pacific Airways
Chateau Whistler Golf Club
Distican
Douglas & McIntyre
Furry Creek Golf & Country Club
Great Pacific News
Harper Collins Canada

Hyatt Regency Hotel
Lauralee Bowie Ski Adventures
Linkman Press
Loomis Trail Golf Club
London Optical
MacMillan Canada
Maclean's Magazine
Murchie's
Pan Pacific Hotel
Panasonic
Powder Resort Properties
Purdy's Chocolates
Radisson President Hotel
Renaissance Vancouver Hotel
Richmond Savings
Rocky Mountain Rail Tours

Royal Bank
Sportsbook Plus
Sports Only
Sprint Canada
The Province
The Vancouver Sun
The Westin Bayshore
Vancouver Canucks
Vancouver Grizzlies
Westward Studios
White Spot Restaurants
Whitecap Books
William M. Mercer Ltd.
... and many more

TOURNAMENT PHOTOGRAPHER
Ryan McNair

The PGIs gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the National Literacy Secretariat and ABC CANADA.



Literacy B.C.'s

1996/97 Cost-Shared Projects

We thank the B.C. Ministry of Education, Skills and Training and the National Literacy Secretariat for funding the following four projects through the 1996/97 B.C. literacy cost-shared program:

Provincial Literacy Information, Referral and Resource Services

Literacy B.C. will provide a comprehensive provincial literacy information and referral service. The service will include:

- ◆ maintaining a provincial toll-free number to provide literacy information to the field and the public, including potential learners and volunteer tutors
- ◆ distributing information about literacy and ABE programs in B.C.
- ◆ providing mailing lists to the B.C. literacy field
- ◆ informing the literacy and ABE fields of current issues, events, initiatives and resources
- ◆ increasing public awareness about literacy in B.C. and literacy issues.

Visit us on the Web

<http://www.nald.ca/lbc.htm>

Longitudinal Research: Emerging Issues on Learner Motivation, Access, Participation, and Dropout

Literacy B.C. will conduct a longitudinal research study from calls to our provincial toll-free number by adults who want to upgrade their literacy skills.

The study will collect information from callers about:

- ◆ what motivates them to improve their skills
- ◆ the barriers and supports they experience as they try to access and participate in a literacy program
- ◆ the impacts and outcomes of participation in a literacy program
- ◆ why they choose not to participate or to drop-out.

One of the main purposes of the study is to increase our knowledge about how the current economy and social policies affect the B.C. population with low literacy skills. A report of the findings will be published and widely distributed.

Participation in the study by callers to Literacy B.C. will be completely voluntary and the confidentiality of personal information protected.

Literacy B.C.'s 1996/97 Cost-Shared Projects

Regional Literacy Coordinators Project

The Regional Literacy Coordinators Project is designed to strengthen and support regional literacy networks and to develop models for regional literacy coordination in B.C.

The project has been funded by the B.C. literacy cost-shared program since 1995. The 1996/97 regional literacy coordinators are:

- ◆ May Boychuk, Northern Lights
- ◆ Paula Davies, New Caledonia
- ◆ Leona Gadsby, East Kootenay
- ◆ Norah McLean, Malaspina and North Island
- ◆ Maureen Stephens, Okanagan
- ◆ To be announced, Selkirk

The objectives of the project are to:

- ◆ Provide consultation, information, and support to the regions.
- ◆ Coordinate professional development training for the literacy and ABE field.
- ◆ Enhance the regional resource collections and make them available to the field and the public.
- ◆ Assist and encourage the development of regional networks.

- ◆ Provide learner mentorships in three regions. The mentorships will develop the learners' skills in organizing, planning, communicating and networking.
- ◆ Contact government and community agencies regarding policies and legislation that affect access to literacy training. Identify emerging issues in the literacy field.
- ◆ Produce a literacy community development manual.

Provincial Literacy Library/ Resource Centre Implementation Project

Literacy B.C. will plan and implement a centralized provincial literacy resource library.

The project will catalogue and bar code over 2,800 resources held by Literacy B.C. An automated on-loan circulation system, with on-line public access, will be created. Historical and limited edition materials, particularly the products of cost-shared projects, will be archived.

The library/resource centre is based on needs identified in the Provincial Literacy Resource Centre Study conducted in 1995. ☐

Job Opportunities in Regional Coordination

Regional Literacy Coordinator, Selkirk Region

The position of Regional Literacy Coordinator for the Selkirk region is vacant. Sue Port, who filled the position from 1995 to 1996, has retired.

The part-time contract position will require approximately 20 - 25 hours per month from September 30, 1996 to June 30, 1997.

Interviews for the position will take place by phone during the last week of August 1996.

To apply for the position, please submit a resume and covering letter to Literacy B.C. by **August 16, 1996**.

Learner Mentorship at Literacy B.C.

Literacy B.C. has an opening for one or two learners to be mentored as part of the 1996/97 Regional Literacy Coordinators Project.

The mentorship will take place at Literacy B.C. It will provide the learner(s) with the opportunity to develop leadership skills. The learner(s) will also work with Literacy B.C. staff on communication

skills, planning and organizing, networking with other learners in the province, and using computers.

The position will require about 8 - 10 hours per month. The learner(s) will receive a small monthly honorarium.

If you are interested in the position, please contact Mary Thompson Boyd at Literacy B.C. by **August 30, 1996**.

For further information about these positions, contact:

Mary Thompson Boyd
Coordinator of Training and Regional Development
Literacy B.C.
622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8

Phone: 1-800-663-1293
Fax: 684-8520
E-mail: m_thompson_boyd@douglas.bc.ca

Resources

Memories of Days Gone By ***Treasure of Memories*** ***Lil's Story: An Ordinary Woman***

These three books tell personal stories about living in western Canada from the 1920's to the present. The stories were written and edited by members of the Seniors Writing Circle of Kiwassa Neighbourhood House in Vancouver.

The books are the product of a 1995/96 B.C. literacy cost-shared project of Vancouver Community College and Kiwassa Neighbourhood House.



Effie Niemela recalls her one-room prairie school in her story, *School Days*:

When my dad was a boy, he went to the same school as I did. It was one room with a porch. We had as many as forty-five kids, one teacher and eight grades . . . We had to walk as far as a quarter mile to get our drinking water . . . By the time I got to grade seven and eight there were only three of us left. A lot dropped out. Going to school was a lot of work. But we got a good education.

From *Memories of Days Gone By*



Unemployed people in Vancouver, 1930's

Hannah Gvorchin remembers her childhood during the Depression in her story, *East Vancouver When I Was A Child*.

Because of the Depression there was hardly any work and no welfare unless you lived in the province for a year so we were poor and hungry. . . . I remember one time when out of desperation . . . my father caught crabs in nets and cooked them at home. Our house smelled for over a block away. He shelled the crabs, sold them and was caught and fined.

From *Treasure of Memories*

Resources

Reading About Surviving

I have often wondered why I stayed in that marriage for as long as I did. Perhaps it was because my self esteem was so low, or that I had no support systems . . . It could have been that I learned to live in a violent situation. It could have been all of these reasons.

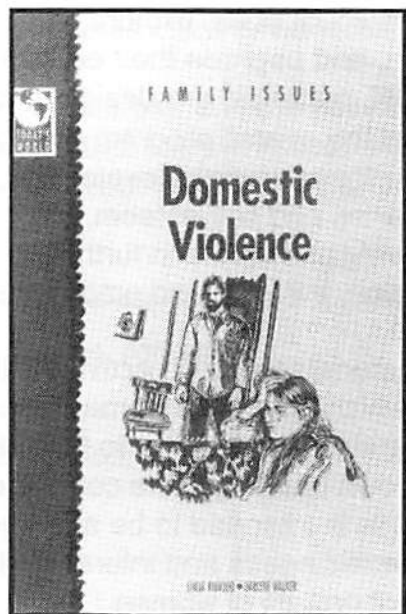
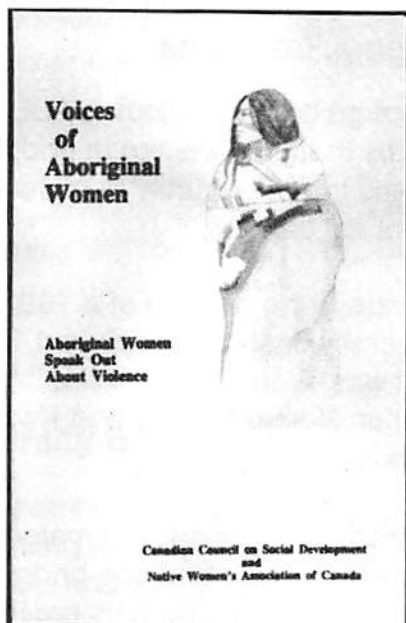
It seemed like nobody cared. Often I would look for help, but it was like it was my fault, so I didn't bother. I just kept taking it. I took it for 17 years.

These are the words of women who have survived abuse. Their stories are part of a collection of 16 easy-to-read books about violence against women in relationships.

Reading About Surviving was compiled for women with low literacy skills who have experienced abuse. The collection offers these women reading material that reflects their experience.

The collection is the product of a 1995/96 B.C. literacy cost-shared project sponsored by Malaspina University College and the B.C. and Yukon Society of Transition Houses. A copy of the collection has been placed in every transition house in B.C.

The books in the collection are from Canada, the U.S. and South Africa. They include novels, personal stories, non-fiction, and two children's stories. The books range from a literacy to a grade 10 reading level.



A copy of the collection is available on loan from Literacy B.C.
Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

Resources

A Guide to Adult Basic Education in Women's Bridging Programs

This is a guide to developing ABE materials that give women in bridging programs the opportunity to experience success as learners.

The guide is the product of a 1995/96 B.C. literacy cost-shared project. The project was sponsored by Atira Transition House Society and Kwantlen University College.

The guide presents sample materials for the ABE component of a bridging program. Bridging programs provide a safe, supportive place for women who have experienced abuse to improve their personal skills, explore career options, and upgrade their education. The ABE materials are designed to support the overall program goal of helping these women develop the confidence and self-esteem to effectively participate in further education, training, and employment.

The materials focus on activities and skills which develop a woman's ability to learn and encourage her to take charge of her own learning. The content of the materials is intended to be adapted to the specific needs and interests of different groups of women.

Copies of the guide are available from Literacy B.C. Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

Legal Services of the Cowichan Valley

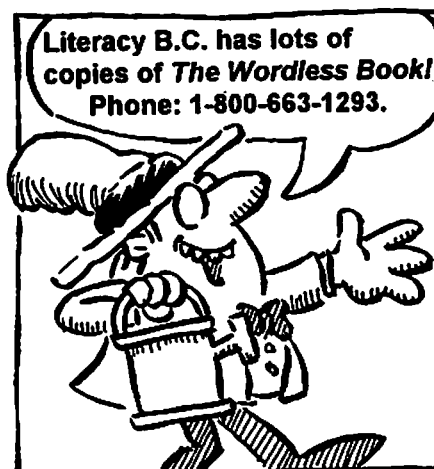
This is a booklet about how to find legal help for problems that often happen in life.

The booklet was written by students of the Developmental Education Department at Malaspina University College in Duncan, B.C. It was funded by the Public Legal Education Program of the Legal Services Society of B.C.

The booklet contains stories about how to deal with problems such as: noisy neighbours; obtaining visiting rights with children; removing children from care; and vandalism.

Copies of the booklet are available from Literacy B.C.
Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

The Wordless Book



Resources

Focus on Family Literacy

These recently published resources report on family literacy programs funded by the 1995/96 B.C. literacy cost-shared program. The reports are intended as guides to assist other organizations in offering similar programs. Copies of the reports are available from Literacy B.C. Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

Parents and Preschoolers Learning Through the Library: A Process Guide



This is a guide to the development of a family literacy program in a library. It is based on a program held last fall at the George Mackie Library in Delta to help parents and their pre-school children learn to enjoy reading together. The program was also designed to introduce families to the services offered by community libraries.

The project was sponsored by Fraser Valley Regional Library; Delta School District, Continuing Education; and Kwantlen University College.

Families Reading Together For a Better Future; Une Famille Qui Lit Un Avenir Qui Sourit

This is the report of a project designed to promote family literacy and community integration among three different cultural groups in the Comox Valley of B.C.

The project was sponsored by CALLS (Community Adult Literacy & Learning Society), Educacentre, the Comox Indian Band, Human Resources Development Canada (Courtenay), and North Island College.

The project identified parents with low literacy skills in the Francophone, First Nations, and mainstream populations. Workshops were offered to encourage these parents to pursue learning experiences for themselves and their children.

The report describes the challenges and rewards created by community partnerships where cultural and linguistic differences exist.



Resources

Haida Gwaii Needs Assessment & Planning Report

This report describes a project that identified the literacy needs and barriers experienced by adults with low literacy skills in the Haida communities of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The project was funded by the 1995/96 B.C. literacy cost-shared program and sponsored by the Haida Gwaii Learning Circle Society and Northwest Community College.

The report presents the results of interviews conducted with counsellors, educators, social service workers, employers, and potential learners. Tutor training was included in the project because the interviews quickly identified a need for trained tutors to work one-on-one with adults with low literacy skills.

Among other findings, the interviews revealed that more Haida men than women have low literacy skills. The report suggests that men who have been successful in logging, fishing, and related industries have not needed an education but that the decline of these industries will make them a primary target group for literacy programs.

The report includes a number of recommendations to improve literacy services in the Queen Charlottes, including: the continuation of a volunteer tutoring program; using low literacy computer programs to encourage adult men to participate; and exploring options such as family literacy and sharing stories orally.

Copies of the report are available from Literacy B.C. Phone: 1-800-663-1293. ☐

Who We Are

Our mission is to promote literacy, to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships, and to present a united voice on literacy.

We are supported by the B.C. Ministry of Education, Skills, and Training; the National Literacy Secretariat; memberships; and donations.

We welcome your news and comments.

You can reach us at:

Literacy B.C.
622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
Phone: 1-800-663-1293 toll free in B.C.
(604) 684-0624 in the Lower Mainland
Fax: (604) 684-8520
E-mail: literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca
WWW: <http://www.nald.ca/lbc.htm>

Donations to Literacy B.C. are tax deductible.

Announcements

Thank you, Superior Propane!

Superior Propane's **Fill for Literacy** campaign has raised over \$22,000 to support literacy in 13 communities across B.C.

Superior Propane donated \$1.00 to local literacy programs from the sale of every barbeque cylinder fillup at participating locations in B.C. during Fill for Literacy Week, May 11 - 18, 1996. Barbeque cookouts on May 11 also raised funds to support local literacy groups.

On behalf of all the participants in this year's Fill for Literacy campaign, we would like to extend our appreciation to Superior Propane for its strong commitment to literacy.

Superior
Propane Inc.

Job Opportunities in Victoria

Two eight month contract positions with Project Literacy Victoria begin September 1996 for the following projects:

- ◆ **A Drama Course** designed to enhance learners' self-esteem, writing, and critical reading and communication skills. The contractor will: develop and deliver the course; assist learners to stage a play for the public; publish a guide to organizing a drama course. The position will require approximately 220 hours.

- ◆ **Reading and Parenting**, an outreach program for mothers aged 16 - 24 and their children. The contractor will: develop and implement the program; conduct and evaluate 16 workshop sessions; publish learning units suitable for community groups serving young parents. The position will require two days per week.

For further information, contact Susan Kurushima at Project Literacy Victoria:

Phone: 381-3755
Fax: 381-4911 

Upcoming Events

Making the Connections

Learning how to live and work more effectively with adults and children who have learning disabilities is the focus of a conference to take place in Richmond, October 18 - 19, 1996.

"Making the Connections" will offer workshops designed for anyone connected with learning disabilities, including educators, parents, social service workers, and adults with learning disabilities. Workshop topics include:

- ◆ Accessing Employment/Training Opportunities for Adults with Learning Disabilities
- ◆ Workplace Accommodations - One Part of the Formula for Success on the Job
- ◆ Learning Disabilities and the Family - Impact on Relationships

The keynote speaker is Professor Sally Smith, an American author and a leader in the field of learning disabilities.

The conference is sponsored by the Learning Disabilities Association of B.C., Vancouver Chapter; the Adult Learning Disabilities Association; the Vancouver School Board; and Douglas College. It is funded by the 1996/97 B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

For further information, contact:

Learning Disabilities Association of B.C., Vancouver Chapter
909 - 750 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Z 1H1

Phone: 873-8139
Fax: 873-8140 ☐

THE	WORD	ON THE	STREET
-----	------	-----------	--------

Vancouver's second annual book and magazine fair will bring the world of reading to Library Square and Homer Street on September 29, 1996.

The Word on the Street is a national, not-for-profit event designed to promote the benefits of literacy. The day of readings, book-selling, literacy information, family fun activities, and live

entertainment takes place on the same day in September in Halifax, Toronto, and Vancouver.

Over 80 book, magazine, and literacy exhibitors will join authors, poets, playwrights, actors, and media and sports personalities to encourage people of all ages to enjoy reading. ☐

